

Stated Meeting, November 6, 1891.

Present, 31 members.

President, Mr. FRALEY, in the Chair.

Mr. Joseph G. Rosengarten, a newly elected member, was presented to the Chair and took his seat.

Correspondence was submitted as follows:

A letter of acceptance of membership from Mr. Joseph G. Rosengarten, Philadelphia.

A letter from Mr. William Curtis Taylor, requesting exchanges on behalf of the Tacoma Academy of Science, Tacoma, Wash. On motion, the Academy was ordered to receive Proceedings from No. 96 and Catalog.

A letter from Mr. Joseph G. Rosengarten, in behalf of various persons, requesting the Society to accept their gift of a marble relief portrait of the late Mrs. Emma Seiler, and to fix a time for its formal presentation. On motion of Mr. Dudley, the gift was accepted and the 20th of November was selected.

Letters of envoy were received from the Société Imp. Russe de Géographie, St. Petersburg; Institut Météorologique de Roumanie, Bucharest; Meteorological Office, Royal Statistical Society, London; Royal Dublin Society, Royal Irish Academy, Dublin; Geological Survey of Pennsylvania, Harrisburg; Theological Seminary, Hartford, Conn.

Letters of acknowledgment (135) were received from Prof. Serge Nikitin, St. Petersburg; Anthropologische Gesellschaft, Vienna; Prof. Peter Ritter von Tunner, Leoben, Austria; Prof. Abel Hovelacque, Paris; Mr. Samuel Timmins, Arley, England; Philosophical Society, University Library, Cambridge, England; Victoria Institute, Linnean Society, Royal Society, Royal Meteorological Society, Messrs. C. Juhlin Dannfeld, P. L. Selater, London; Manchester Geographical Society, Philosophical Society, Glasgow; Prof. Andrew A. Blair, Mr.

Joseph G. Rosengarten, Philadelphia; Kansas Academy of Science, Topeka.

Accessions to the Library were reported from the Société Imp. Russe de Géographie, St. Petersburg; Institut Météorologique de Roumanie, Bucharest; Bataviaasch Genootschap van Kunsten en Wetenschappen, Batavia; K. Akademie van Wetenschappen, Amsterdam; Instituto y Observatorio de Marina, San Fernando; Philological Society, Cambridge, England; Meteorological Council, London; Mr. Samuel Timmins, Arley, near Coventry, England; Mr. James B. Francis, Lowell, Mass.; Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston; Hartford Theological Seminary, Mr. J. A. Spalding, Hartford; Geological Survey of Pennsylvania, Harrisburg; American Society for Extension of University Teaching, University Marine Biological Association, Prof. Edwin J. Houston, MacCalla & Company, Philadelphia; Commissioner of Pensions, Bureau of Education, U. S. Commission of Fish and Fisheries, Dr. Albert S. Gatschet, Washington, D. C.

The death of Hon. William Morris Davis at Philadelphia, was announced as having occurred in October, 1891.

On motion of Secretary Brinton, the paper of Dr. Boaz, on "Indian Languages," was ordered to be printed in the Proceedings.

A communication on "The Electrolysis of Metallic Formates," by Hill Sloane Warwiek, was presented by Secretary Barker.

Curator Patterson Du Bois presented the following report on the examination, by Mr. Paul Leicester Ford, of the autograph copy of the Declaration of Independence owned by the Society.

Notes on the Various Copies of the Declaration of Independence in Jefferson's Handwriting.

According to order the Society's copy of the Declaration of Independence was examined by Mr. Paul Leicester Ford, in the meeting room of the Society, on Wednesday, October 21, 1891, in my presence as Curator. The following facts were obtained from Mr. Ford.

There were nine known MS. copies of the Declaration :

1. Jefferson's original first draft is now in the possession of the Department of State at Washington. It contains five emendations by Franklin and two by John Adams.

2. On the 28th of June, 1776, a fair copy was submitted to Congress. It was discussed on the 3d and 4th of July, and passed late in the day of the 4th of July. There is no evidence that this copy, or any other, was signed, except by the regular official attests, on the 4th of July. All traces of this copy have been lost for many years. The engrossed copy now in the Department of State at Washington, which is, of course, not in Jefferson's handwriting, was signed on the 2d of August following—some of the signers not having been in or members of the Congress on the 4th of July, while others who were there and voted for the Declaration were not among the signers.

Between July 4th and 8th, Jefferson wrote copies as follows :

3. One for John Page.

4. One for George Wythe.

5. One for Edmund Pendleton.

6. One for Richard Henry Lee, the copy now in the possession of the American Philosophical Society, to which it was presented by Lee's grandson.

7. In 1825, Jefferson wrote that he had given a copy to Mazzei, who had subsequently given it to a French countess. Of this we know nothing further.

8. A fair copy was written for Madison, perhaps fifteen years or so after the copies made in 1776 were written. This is now in the possession of the Department of State.

9. In 1821, Jefferson wrote a copy which he inserted in his autobiography.

This Society has in its possession the letter, dated July 8, 1776, in which Jefferson presents to Richard Henry Lee the copy above numbered 6. Jefferson writes : "I enclose you a copy of the Declaration of Independence as agreed to by the House, and also as originally framed ; you will judge whether it is the better or worse for the critics." On July 21, Lee acknowledged it, and said : "I wish sincerely, as well for the honor of Congress as for that of the States, that the manuscript had not been mangled as it is." On this Mr. Ford observes : "In 1825, when this manuscript came into the possession of your Society, John Vaughan, who, I believe, was then your Secretary, wrote to Jefferson, asking him 'if it was the original draft.' To this Jefferson replied, stating it was not, but added : 'Whenever in the course of the composition, a copy became overcharged and difficult to be read with amendments, I copied it fair, and when that also was crowded with other amendments, another fair copy was made, etc. These rough drafts I sent to distant friends who were anxious to know what was passing. . . . Whether the paper sent to R. H. Lee was one of these, or whether, after

the passage of the instrument, I made a copy for him with the amendments of Congress, may, I think, be known from the face of the paper.' An examination of the paper proves conclusively that it is the latter, to which has been added an endorsement in the handwriting of Richard Henry Lee, and marginal notes in the handwriting of Arthur Lee, both of which are attested by Richard Henry Lee, the grandson of the former, on the document itself. As Arthur Lee was absent from this country in 1776, and did not return to it till 1779, his notes must have been made subsequent to the latter date."

The underscoring and bracketing in the copies 3, 4, 5, 6 signify, then, that Congress either struck out or altered the phraseology of those passages.

Mr. Ford desires me to return his hearty thanks to the Society for the privilege of examining the manuscript. It seems to me that the Society is likewise indebted to Mr. Ford for the foregoing valuable information.

PATTERSON DU BOIS, *Curator*.

The Treasurer, Mr. Price, presented a report from the Michaux Committee, as follows:

TO THE AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY :

The Michaux Committee respectfully reports that at a meeting of the Committee, held on November 5, 1891, a letter was received from Dr. J. T. Rothrock, enclosing the following list of the subjects proposed for the Thirteenth Course of Lectures given under the auspices of the American Philosophical Society :

1. Vegetation of the Bahamas and Jamaica (illustrated).
2. Vegetation of the Bahamas and Jamaica (illustrated).
3. Physical Geography of the Bahamas and Jamaica (illustrated).
4. Some Problems for the Future, arising from Forest Growth, Surface Drainage and State Lines.
5. Forestry in Pennsylvania.
6. Relation of Forests to the Surface of the Earth.
7. Some Points in Practical Forestry.

It is expected that the Lectures will be delivered in the Hall of the Academy of Natural Sciences, which has been kindly tendered to him by the Academy for that purpose.

The Committee approved of the proposition and requests the Society to make an appropriation of \$255 out of the income of the Michaux fund to meet the expenses of the Lectures.

In January, 1890, the Society made an appropriation of \$200, out of the income of the Michaux fund, to Prof. Heilprin, towards the expenses of his expedition to Mexico and Yucatan, and your Committee has just received from him a paper entitled "Observations on the Flora of Northern Yucatan," in the nature of a report to it of his botanical work in that

country, which is herewith submitted as part of its report to be printed in the Proceedings of the Society.

The Committee submits the following resolutions, which it desires shall be passed by the Society.

Resolved, That the sum of two hundred and fifty-five dollars be appropriated out of the income of the Michaux fund towards the expenses of the Thirteenth Course of the "Michaux Forestry Lectures," by Dr. J. T. Rothrock.

Resolved, That the paper of Prof. Heilprin, entitled "Observations on the Flora of Yucatan," as well as the paper presented by Dr. Rothrock entitled "Some Observations on the Bahamas and Jamaica," in the nature of report to the Michaux Committee of his visit to these Islands in 1891, be printed in full in the Proceedings of the Society as part of the report of the Michaux Committee.

By order of the Board,

J. SERGEANT PRICE, *Secretary*.

The resolutions, as reported, were adopted by the Society.

Observations on the Flora of Northern Yucatan.

By Prof. Angelo Heilprin.

It is not a little singular that while the Mexican region as a whole has from the beginning of the century to the present day attracted the attention of botanists of all nations, and contributed more largely to the initial understanding of geographical botany than perhaps any other region of the globe, the Province or State of Yucatan should not have drawn to it a single botanist of note. Indeed, it is only in the last few years that any systematic effort has been made towards the determination of its flora, even the relationship of which has not yet been precisely ascertained. Grisebach, in his *Vegetation der Erde* (1884, Vol. ii, p. 301), dismisses the region with the bare statement that unfavorable climatic and physical conditions prevent luxuriance of vegetable development, and Hemsley, in his report upon the botany of Mexico and Central America, prepared for Godman and Salvin's *Biologia Centrali-Americana* (*Botany*, iv, p. 151, 1888), merely asserts our ignorance in the following words: "Before concluding this part, we may add that little is known of the details of the botany of Yucatan, except that it is very poor and scanty, and largely composed of plants that still bear long droughts without injury. The poverty of the flora is ascribed to the fact that the copious rains rapidly filter away through the porous limestone substratum." Drude, in his *Handbuch der Pflanzengeographie* (1890), ignores the region entirely. In view of this very limited knowledge of the flora of a country so interesting